

METRONET — RAILCAR MANUFACTURING — C-SERIES

550. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's significant expansion of Perth's public transport network through Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister outline how this expansion is being supported by the local construction of new C-series railcars and what this means for jobs?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of any other investments in local jobs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) In Swan Hills we are seeing the Ellenbrook train station emerging—actually, it is nearly finished—in the town centre. We are very proud of our Metronet program, and no program are we more proud of than our railcar manufacturing program. As people know, two railcar sets are doing trials up and down the Joondalup and Mandurah rail lines. People would have seen the new C-series railcars going back and forth. We brought back the railcar industry from oblivion despite the criticism of the Liberal and National Parties, which said we should not be investing in these types of industries. That industry is up and going and we are employing people from around the state, like Paul Fitzgerald, a mechanical fitter at our railcar facility, and Daniel Holloway, an electrician with the testing and commissioning team. We are supporting many businesses in the supply chain across the suburbs and across the state.

Wherever we look, we are supporting local manufacturing across the transport portfolio. Through our bus program we are building our buses here in Malaga. We built the new ferry, *Tricia*, here in WA. Of course, Dongara Marine, which built that ferry, is also building a number of pilot boats for our ports across the state plus other boats for emergency services across the area.

Of course, we are very much focused on jobs in WA. I know the National Party is focused on jobs, too, but it is about who is going to be the new member for the midwest and who will be the next member for Central Wheatbelt. As we know, there is a bit of a battle and positioning between the member for North West Central and the member for Moore with the potential new seat of the member for midwest.

The SPEAKER: Sorry, minister; resume your seat, please. There is a point of order.

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I think the minister is straying away from the transport question by talking about electoral reform et cetera. It is not relevant.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! I am not going to uphold the point of order at this time, but if the minister were to stray for a very long period, she will be called to order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Sure. The question was talking about jobs.

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* about Nationals WA servant Lachlan Hunter purchasing the Northam home previously owned by Hon Brendon Grylls. I understand that that home is always the home of the eventual member for Central Wheatbelt. It was Hon Brendon Grylls' home; he is a former member for Central Wheatbelt. It is like the *Big Brother* house; National Party members come and go, and the last one to get evicted becomes the member for Central Wheatbelt!

This government is very focused on delivering jobs for Western Australia—jobs throughout the community and local manufacturing jobs—as opposed to the National Party, which is looking after its own seats.